

ART. X.—A New Species of *Lymeaxylonidae* (Coleoptera).

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ATRACTOCERUS CRASSICORNIS, n. sp.

Female.—Length 30 mm.

Brown. Antennæ and legs lighter, more reddish, tarsi yellow. Pronotum with a longitudinal yellow vitta, extending on to the head and scutellum. Eyes black, with a silvery sheen below. Elytra reddish, lighter in middle.

Head rounded, longer than broad, finely punctate-rugose, very finely and densely reticulate between the punctures: a shallow longitudinal groove extending from the middle of eyes to posterior border. Eyes very large, practically touching from centre to front. The whole of the head, including the eyes, clothed with short erect yellowish hairs. Mandibles rather long, shining near apex; densely clothed with long reddish hairs. Clypeus very short, concave in front. Palpi (Fig. 1c) large, half as long as antenna, with 6 or 7 finger-like branches at each side bent inward, basket-like. Antennæ short and thick, slightly longer than the head, densely clothed with short, oblique, reddish hairs, rather longer and more erect on the first two segments; first segment slightly broader than long, broadest in front, second subglobular, smaller than the first, third to ninth twice as broad as long but decreasing rapidly in size from the fourth, tenth one-fourth longer than broad, eleventh as long as broad, apical short and sharp pointed. Prothorax slightly longer than broad, sides parallel to the apical third then evenly rounded in front; a wide and moderately deep longitudinal groove on top, wider and deeper behind than in front, densely covered with shallow piligerous punctures, the hairs yellowish, short and erect. Elytra slightly longer than head, finely reticulate-punctate, the punctures coarser near base. Abdomen long and slender, the sides parallel, densely and rather finely punctate; pubescence yellow, very fine and close-lying, some long erect hairs on the sides in front. Legs long and slender.

Habitat.—North Western Australia: Turkey Creek (F. May).

Captured at light at night. Type in National Museum.

Near *A. kreuslerae*, from which it is readily distinguished by shorter and thicker antennæ, slightly different palpi, more elongate prothorax and very short elytra. The colour too is much

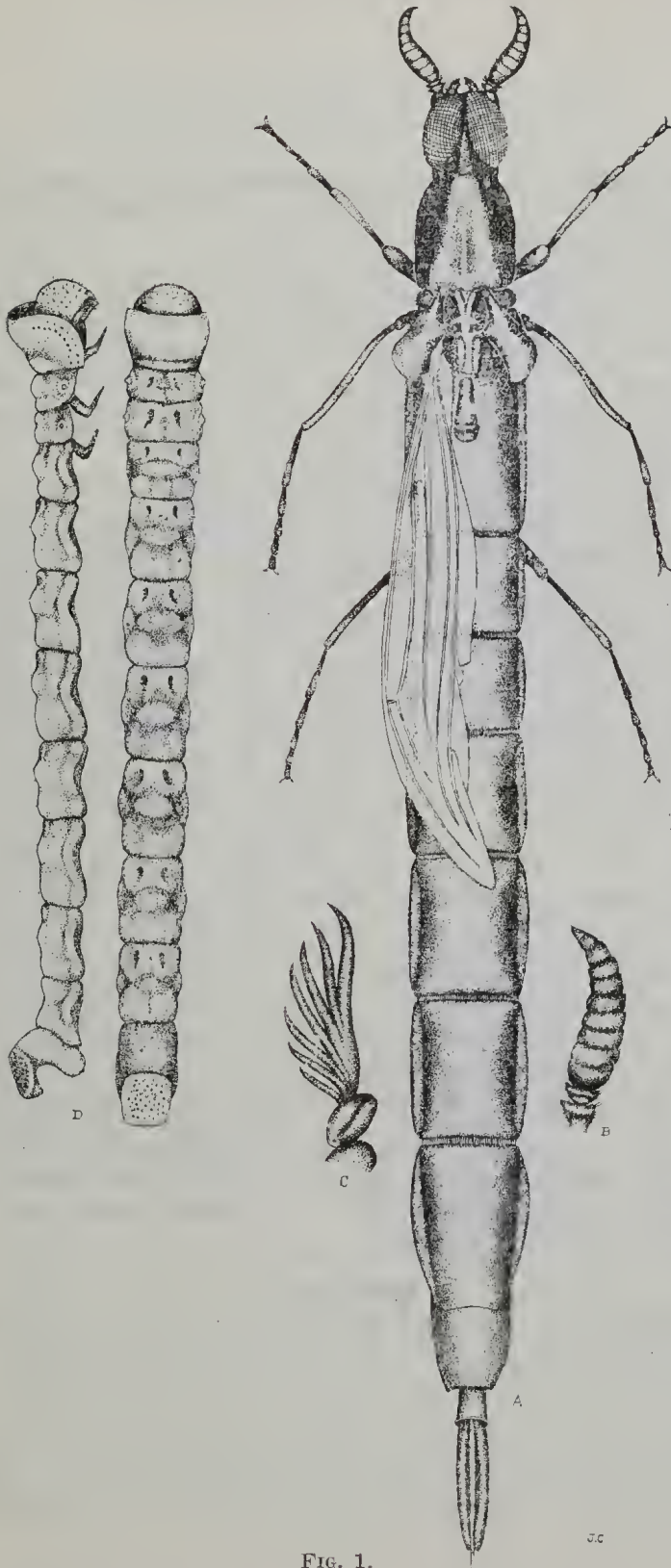


FIG. 1.

- A. *Atractocerus crassicornis*, n. sp. Female, one wing removed to show segments.
- B. Antenna.
- C. Palpi, showing only one half, or side, greatly enlarged.
- D. Top and side view of larva of *A. kreuserae* Pasc.

darker and the broad yellow vitta is lacking in the former. The palpi are branched as in *A. kreuslerae* but the branches are not pectinate as in that species.

In a previous article (1) on the bionomics of *A. kreuslerae* Pasc., I erroneously stated that the antennæ have eleven segments. They have twelve segments, the apical being small, almost fused with the eleventh. I have also examined the antennæ on the type of *A. victoriensis* Blkb., in the National Museum collection: they have twelve segments. It is probable that the antennæ of *A. tasmaniensis* Lea have also twelve segments, although he mentions only the seventh to eleventh as thin.

A curious error appears in Tillyard's "Insects of Australia and New Zealand," 1926, p. 213. Speaking of *Atractocerus* he says:—"These insects have been seen in Western Australia flying in swarms around bushes at dusk, rising and falling in the air like May-flies." When on the wing the beetle may easily be mistaken for a May-fly or other Neuropteran as I had stated in the previously mentioned journal. The resemblance is, however, confined to the peculiar manner in which the long body is carried when in flight, not from a habit of flying in swarms. The beetles usually emerge from their burrows in the trees late in the afternoon and fly, very rapidly, to the tops of the trees. This habit accounts for their rarity in collections, even our largest museums containing very few examples of any species.

The larvæ (Fig. 1d) are very abundant, occurring always in small colonies in the trees affected. They are slender and elongated, measuring up to 35 mm. They are of a light cream colour with the head and cowl yellow. They bore for a considerable distance into the tree, mostly in a horizontal direction, but frequently upwards or downwards, and very often in all directions. As the larvæ progress inwards they continually push out a long thread-like core, which is usually projecting about one inch from the burrow, eventually breaking off and accumulating in a heap at the base of the tree, or the injured portion; this thread-like core is very characteristic of the pin-hole borer. No doubt the peculiar terminal segment is adapted for ejecting this material, the short forward-bent legs giving it great power to push the core along the burrow.

Reference.

- (1) CLARK, *Journ. Dept. Agric. W. Australia*, [2], ii (1), pp. 138-142, figs., 1925.